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ACTION

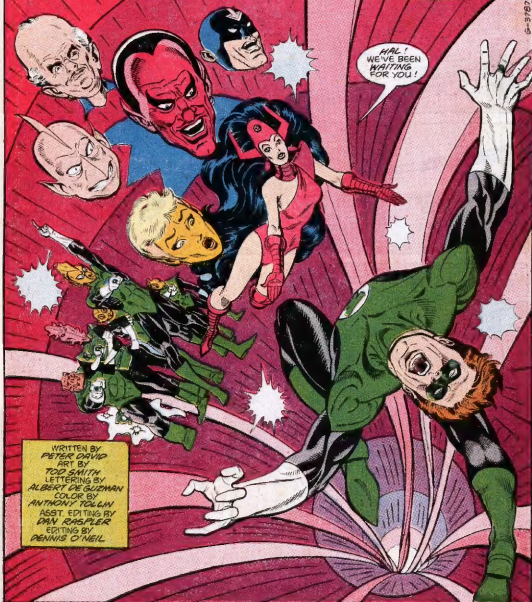
COMICS® WEEKLY

NIGHTWING™
FLIES AGAIN!



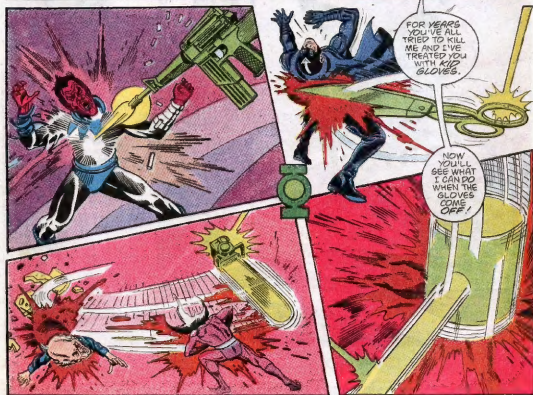
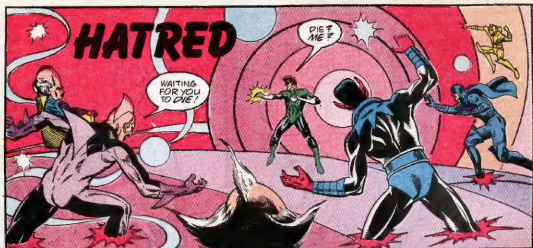
PLUS:
THE PHANTOM STRANGER
SUPERMAN • BLACK CANARY
GREEN LANTERN
CATWOMAN

GREEN LANTERN: HEAD TRIP



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GUILT



JEALOUS RAGE

WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE ME?

JUST WHO IN HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

GREEN LANTERNS? GREEN WITH ENVY IS MORE LIKE IT!

ENVIOUS BECAUSE I'M THE GREATEST GREEN LANTERN OF ALL, AND YOU'RE ALL JUST HAS-BEENS AND NEVER-WASES. PALTRY CARBON COPIES OF ME!

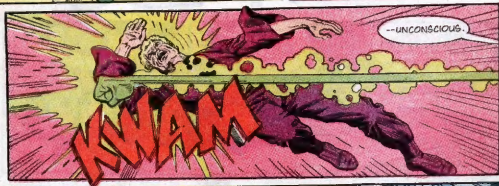
THERE'S YOUR TRIAL. THERE'S MY DEFENSE CASE...

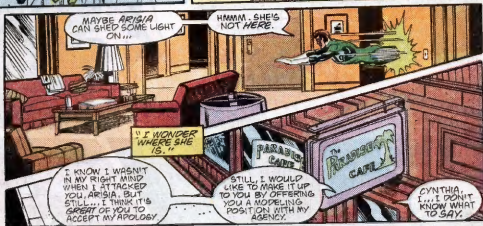
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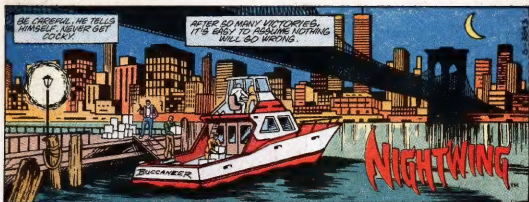
SPLUTCH

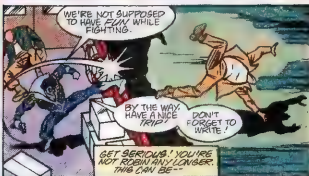
PASSION

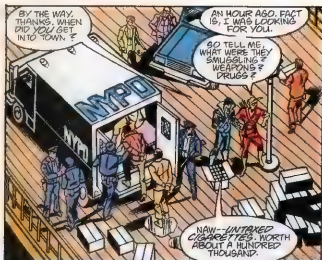












BY THE WAY, THANKS. WHEN DID YOU GET INTO TOWN?

AN HOUR AGO, FACT IS, I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.

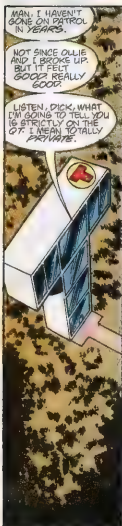
SO TELL ME, WHAT WERE THEY SMUGGLING? WEAPONS? DRUGS?

NAH--UNTAXED CIGARETTES. WORTH ABOUT A HUNDRED THOUSAND.



NOT EXACTLY. THE KIND OF CRIME THAT MAKES THE FRONT PAGES.

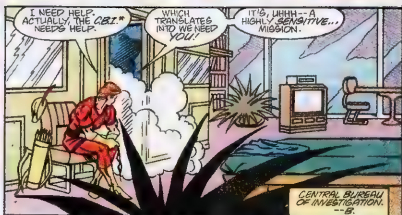
DICK, DO YOU MIND IF WE TALK-- BACK AT THE TOWER?



MAN, I HAVEN'T GONE ON PATROL IN YEARS.

NOT SINCE OLLIE AND I BROKE UP. BUT IT FELT GOOD. REALLY GOOD.

LISTEN, DICK, WHAT I'M GOING TO TELL YOU IS STRICTLY ON THE Q.T. I MEAN TOTALLY PRIVATE.

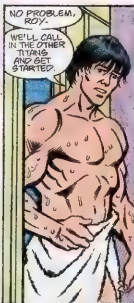


I NEED HELP. ACTUALLY, THE C.B.I.* NEEDS HELP.

WHICH TRANSLATES INTO WE NEED YOU!

IT'S, UHHH-- A HIGHLY SENSITIVE... MISSION.

CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.
--B.



NO PROBLEM, ROY.

WE'LL CALL IN THE OTHER TITANS AND GET STARTED.



NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. THEY CAN'T GET INVOLVED.

NOBODY BUT YOU AND ME.

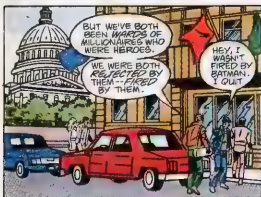
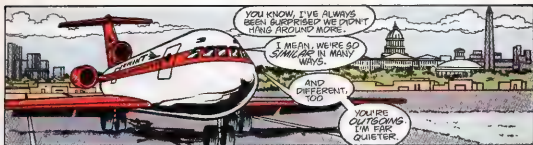
WHAT IS IT?

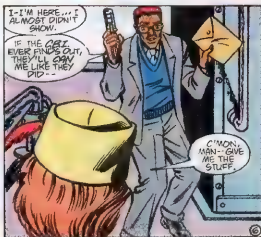
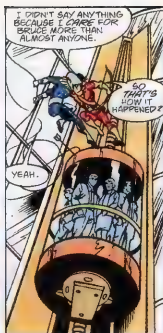


WE'RE GOING AFTER THE MOTHER OF MY CHILD.

WE'RE GOING AFTER CYESHIRE!











I SEE HIM--
RIGHT AHEAD.

CHESHIRE'S
PROBABLY HERE
SOMEWHERE.

WE'VE GOT TO
GET HIM OUT OF
HERE.



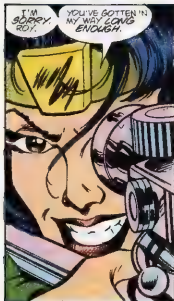
ALL RIGHT...
ON TARGET...
AND-- EH?

DAMN!
DAMN YOU,
HAPPER!



HOW MANY TIMES
HAVE I WARNED YOU
NOT TO INTERFERE
WITH ME?

STUPID,
STUPID,
MORON!



I'M
SORRY,
ROY.

YOU'VE GOTTEN IN
MY WAY LONG
ENOUGH.



YOU MAY
BE THE FATHER
OF MY
DAUGHTER--

--BUT THAT
WOULDN'T SAVE
YOU NOW!



GOOD-BYE,
ROY.

IT WAS
FUN WHILE
IT LASTED!

TO BE CONTINUED
NEXT WEEK!

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S ON THE BESTSELLER LISTS, JUST TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT THEY'RE READING ON THE NEW YORK CITY SUBWAYS.

OF COURSE, THERE'S USUALLY AN OFFERING BY DANIEL GLEASON ON ANY LIST.

THE CRITIC'S LAL, HIS NOVELS OF SUSPENSE AND HORROR "PAGE-TURNERS."

THEY CITE HIS DEFT HANDLING OF CHARACTER, HIS ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND REALISTIC INTERPRETATION OF THE SUPERNATURAL.

ONE REVIEWER SAID THE HORROR "LEAPS TO ALMOST LITERALLY "LEAP OFF THE PAGE AT YOU."

OH, MY GOD--!

CRIPES! SOME-
BODY-- DO
SOMETHING!

ANOTHER REMARKED THAT THE SUSPENSE "HITS YOU IN THE FACE LIKE A FIST AND LEAVES YOU DRAINED."

EEEEEE!

LITTLE DO THEY KNOW...

...HE WAS DOING A
PARODY OF ITALIAN ART
FILMS, STRANGER. ER...
BUT I GUESS THAT KIND
OF HUMOR ONLY WORKS
IF YOU KNOW THE
SOURCE MATERIAL.

IT IS NOT THAT I DID NOT
ENJOY THE MOTION
PICTURE, BRUCE GORDON...
IT IS MERELY THAT I AM
SOMEWHAT PUZZLED
BY PEOPLE'S REACTIONS
TO THAT STRANGE
LITTLE MAN.

HA HA! IF YOU THINK
HE'S STRANGE, WAIT TILL
YOU SEE BOBCAT GOLDTHWAIT.
HUMANITY'S TOUGH TO
FIGURE OUT, MY FRIEND.

PAUL KUPPERBERG
WRITER
TOM GRINDBERG
PENCILLER
DENNIS JANKE
INKER
BOB PINAHA
LETTERER
PETRA SCOTESS
COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN
EDITOR

Can't Judge
a
Book

ABOUT SEX
PENTASK

PHANTOM
STRANGER

YES, BUT WELL WORTH THE
EFFORT NOW-- I HAVE
PARTAKEN OF YOUR WORLD.
ALLOW ME TO RETURN
THE FAVOR WITH A
BIT OF MINE.

Hmmm? OH, UHM... I DON'T KNOW,
STRANGER. I'M STILL NOT QUITE
OVER MY LAST ENCOUNTER WITH
THE SUPERNATURAL.

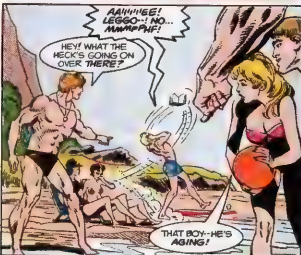
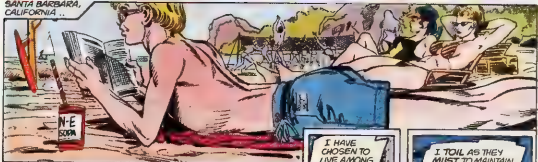
AH, YES. SO I WOULD IMAGINE. NO,
I REFER TO A NEARBY BOOK-STORE
WHICH SPECIALIZES IN VOLUMES
ON MAGIC. I AM IN NEED OF SOME
BOOKS FOR MY RESEARCH.

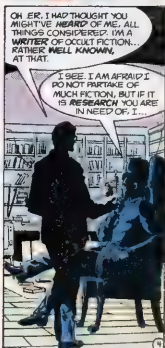
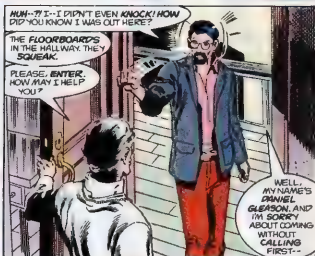
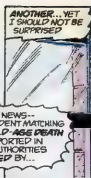
OH, WELL,
THAT I CAN
HANDLE.

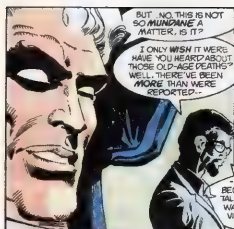
MYSTERY
DEATH



SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA...







BUT... NO, THIS IS NOT
SO MUNDANE A
MATTER, IS IT?

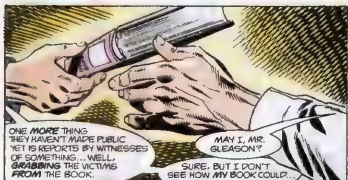
I ONLY WISH IT WERE
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT
THOSE OLD-AGE DEATHS?
WELL, THERE'VE BEEN
MORE THAN WERE
REPORTED--



--DOZENS MORE. I KNOW,
BECAUSE THE F.B.I.'S BEEN
TALKING TO ME ABOUT THEM. THEY
WANT TO KNOW WHY ALL THE
VICTIMS'VE BEEN FOUND READING
MY LATEST NOVEL.



THEY WEREN'T
ACCUSING ME OF
ANYTHING, BUT
THEY WERE
DESPERATE
FOR ANY
LEADS



ONE MORE THING
THEY HAVEN'T MADE PUBLIC
YET IS REPORTS BY WITNESSES
OF SOMETHING... WELL,
GRABBING THE VICTIMS
FROM THE BOOK.

MAY I, MR.
GLEASON?

SURE, BUT I DON'T
SEE HOW MY BOOK COULD...

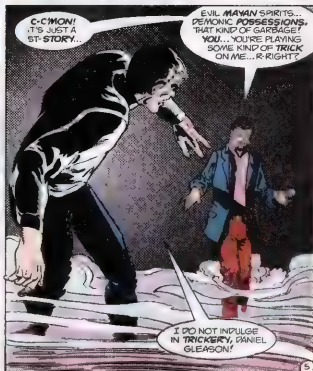


NO!



MY GOD--!
WH-WHAT'S
GOING
ON--?

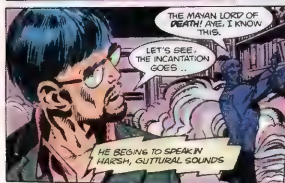
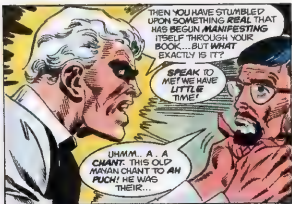
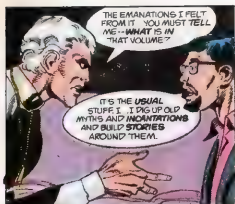
GET BACK, DANIEL
GLEASON! THE GREAT
EVIL I HAVE BEEN
SENSING... IT LIVES
WITHIN YOUR BOOK!

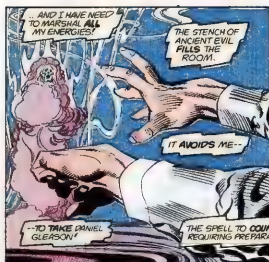


C-C-MON!
IT'S JUST A
ST-ST-STORY...

EVIL MAYAN SPIRITS...
DEMONIC POSSESSIONS...
THAT KIND OF GARBAGE!
YOU... YOU'RE PLAYING
SOME KIND OF TRICK
ON ME... R-R-RIGHT?

I DO NOT INDULGE
IN TRICKERY, DANIEL
GLEASON!





...AND I HAVE NEED
TO MARSHAL **ALL**
MY ENERGIES!

THE STENCH OF
ANCIENT EVIL
FILLS THE
ROOM.

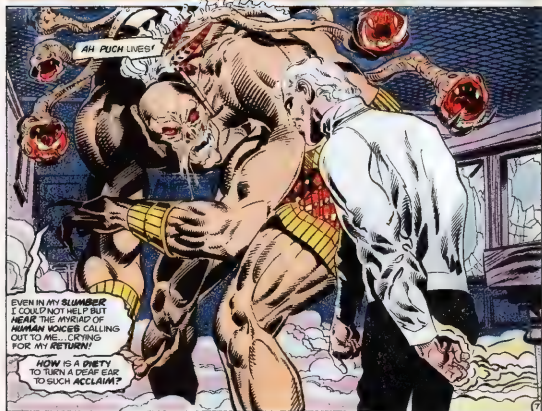
IT AVOIDS ME--

--TO TAKE DANIEL
GLEASON!

THE SPELL TO COUNTER DEATH IS COMPLEX,
REQUIRING PREPARATION AND CONCENTRATION.



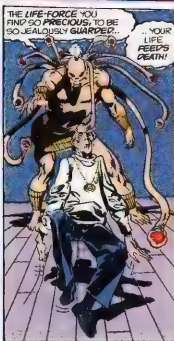
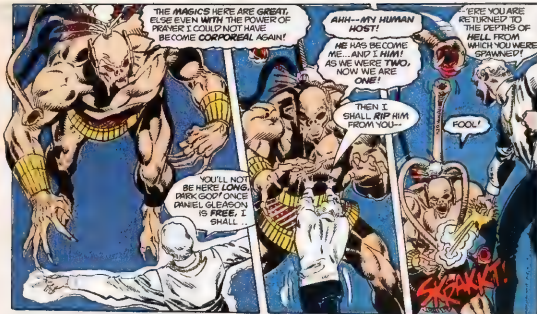
I HAD NEITHER THE TIME
FOR ONE NOR THE
OPPORTUNITY FOR
THE OTHER



AH PUCH LIVES!

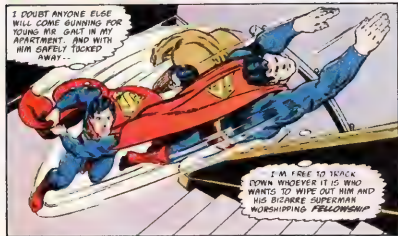
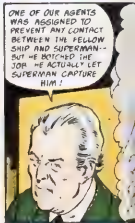
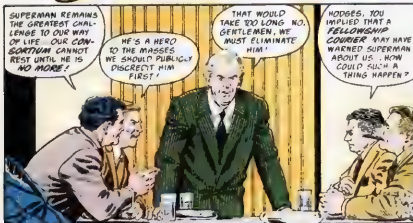
EVEN IN MY SLUMBER
I COULD NOT HELP BUT
HEAR THE MYRIAD OF
HUMAN VOICES CALLING
OUT TO ME...CRYING
FOR MY RETURN!

HOW IS A PRIETY
TO TURN A DEAF EAR
TO SUCH ACCLAIM?



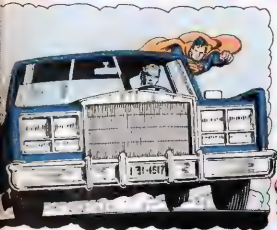
SUPERMANTM WICKED

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

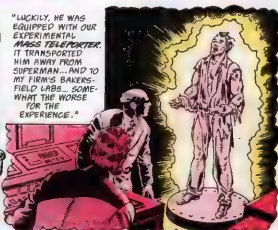


BUSINESS!"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
PETRA SCOTSE - COLORIST
MIKE GARLIN - EDITOR



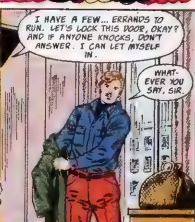
"LUCKILY, HE WAS EQUIPPED WITH OUR EXPERIMENTAL MASS TELEPORTER. IT TRANSPORTED HIM AWAY FROM SUPERMAN... AND TO MY FIRM'S BAKERS-FIELD LABS... SOMEWHAT THE WORSE FOR THE EXPERIENCE."



CONSIDERING MY RENT, IT'D BETTER BE! HELP YOURSELF TO THE REFRIGERATOR, BOB, IF YOU FEEL HUNGRY.



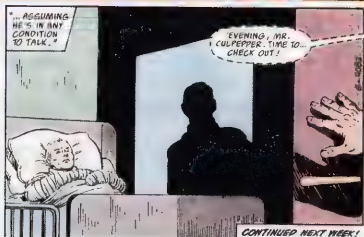
I HAVE A FEW... ERRANDS TO RUN. LET'S LOCK THIS DOOR, OKAY? AND IF ANYONE KNOCKS, DON'T ANSWER. I CAN LET MYSELF IN.



WHAT- EVER YOU SAY, SIR.



MAYBE I CAN GET SOME ANSWERS OUT OF THIS CHARLES CULPEPPER...



"... ASSUMING HE'S IN ANY CONDITION TO TALK."

EVENING, MR. CULPEPPER. TIME TO CHECK OUT!

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

IT'S THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING. AN OLD BROOCH IS MISSING.

IS SOMETHING WRONG, SELINA?

MOST WOMEN WOULD BE TOO TIRED TO CARE.

SOME WOULD CHECK THAT SWEATER IT WAS PINNED TO, OR SCROUNGE HALF-HEARTEDLY THROUGH THE JEWELRY BOX.

ARTHUR KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.

A FEW WOULD TEAR THE HOUSE APART TO FIND IT.

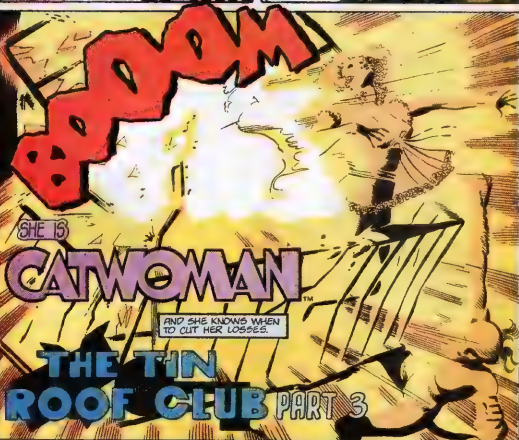
SELINA, ARE YOU CRAZY? COME BACK UP HERE! I'M SORRY I OPENED YOUR PRESENT--

"O'LLLEEEY!!"

SELINA, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!

I'M SURE--C'MON, HOLLY, MOVE!

--BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO GO AWAY MA--



AND SHE KNOWS WHEN TO CUT HER LOSSES.

MINDY NEWELL~WRITER • BARRY KITSON~PENCILLER • BRUCE PATTERSON~INKER
CARRIE SPIEGLE~LETTERER • ADRIENNE ROY~COLORIST • DAN RASPLER~ASST. EDITOR

DENNIS O'NEIL
~EDITOR



UMMM--

HOLLY?
HOLLY, YOU
OKAY.



HOLLY?

HOLLY!



HOLLY, IT'S
ME. OPEN YOUR
EYES, KID.
HOLLY.



I DON'T FEEL
SO GOOD

IT'S
OKAY, HOLLY.
IT'S OKAY

I'M SORRY
I OPENED THE
BAGGIES, SELINA.



IT DOESN'T
MATTER, HOLLY. I
WOULD HAVE DONE
THE SAME
THING.

REALLY?



REALLY.

THE COPS
YOU GOTTA GO,
SELINA.

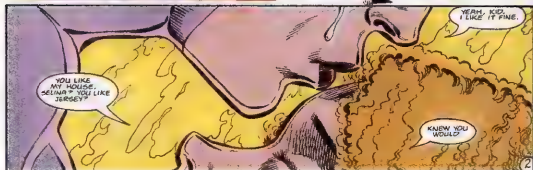
NO WAY,
KID.



I'M A BIG GIRL
NOW, SELINA. DON'T
HAVE TO BABYSIT ME
NO MORE.

HOLLY--

GIMME
A KISS FORE
YOU GO



YOU LIKE
MY HOUSE,
SELINA? YOU LIKE
JERSEY?

YEAH, KID. I
LIKE IT FINE.

KNEW YOU
WOULD

SHE'S SAFE ENOUGH HERE. FOR NOW. SOON THE COPS WILL COME BACK. THEY'LL BE AT HER APARTMENT, TOO. WAITING.

SHE SHOULD GET UP, MOVE, LEAVE TOWN. RUN AWAY WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME. BEFORE THEY COME TO QUESTION HER, TO LOCK HER UP.

BUT THE WHISKEY FEELS GOOD. WARMING THE PIT OF HER STOMACH.

WARMING THE PIT OF HER SOUL.

GETTING DRUNK, SELINA? THAT'S NOT LIKE THE WOMAN I KNOW.

HAVE A DRINK, GEORGE. ON THE HOUSE THIS TIME.

HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE? DON'T YOU KNOW THE TIN ROOF CLUB IS CORDONED OFF?

HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?

I'M A CAT. REMEMBER? I SLINK IN.

NOT BOTHERING TO HIDE IT THIS TIME?

WHAT FOR? WE DON'T HAVE ANY SECRETS FROM EACH OTHER, DO WE, GEORGE?

I KNOW

HOLLY'S DEAD.

I KILLED HER. DUMB, STUPID HOLLY.

I DID, YOU KNOW.

THAT'S ENOUGH, SELINA

ONE FOR THE ROAD, GEORGIE?

I'M NOT TAKING YOU IN, SELINA.

I'M NOT WORTH YOUR BADGE, GEORGE. DON'T BE STUPID.

I'M OFF-DUTY

COP'S NEVER OFF-DUTY.

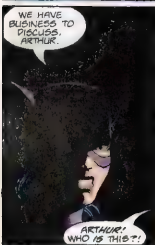
YOU LITTLE-----!!

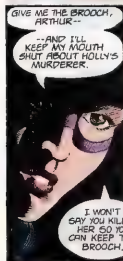
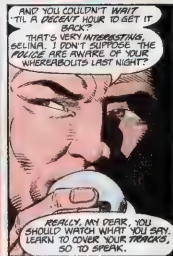
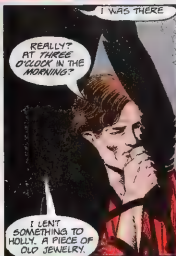
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WERE AT HOLLY'S HOUSE LAST NIGHT.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU STOLE THAT DAMN BROODIE! MAYBE YOU DID, MAYBE YOU DIDN'T.

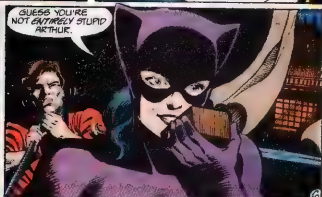
BUT YOU'D BETTER DRY OUT AND THINK FAST, SELINA. 'CAUSE THE NEXT TIME I SHOW UP AROUND HERE--

IT'LL BE WITH A WARRANT.





WHSSAKT!





ACTION

COMICS WEEKLY

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L-3320

Dear Mike,

Thanks for bringing back the anthology comic and making it better than ever. You hit the nail on the head when you pinpointed the main problems with such comics—short story length and too much time between installments. By moving to a weekly format, you've solved both problems. I even found it hard to wait one week, as the stories really sparked my interest.

I originally bought the comic only for a peek at the new Blackhawk series, but as I read other stories, I realized that there's a lot more here to be appreciated. Issue #601 was rather ho-hum (except for an exciting Wild Dog story), but there was still enough there to make me look forward to the next week.

Time passed quickly enough, and soon I had ACW #602 in my hands. It was exactly the opposite of the previous issue. All the stories were incredibly exciting (except for a ho-hum Wild Dog story). "Requiem," the Green Lantern installment, was one of the most powerful stories I've read all year. I was never much of a Hal Jordan fan, but this story made me one. Keep it up, Jim Owsley!

It was also nice to see Deadman back, as he has always been one of my favorite "peripheral" characters from the DC universe. Dan Jurgens has done a great job pencilling, and Mike Baron's story is great.

Now for the Secret Six. After #601, I was not too excited about the feature (in fact, I hated it), but after "Look What Fell Out Of The Sky," I love the Secret Six. Mockingbird is one creepy fellow! And then there's Blackhawk—wow! My congratulations to everyone involved in picking up where Chaykin left off. The story was great, the art even better. Now let's get him back in the skies where he belongs!

Charles Rhett Anderson
Middlebury College
Box 3190
Middlebury, VT 05753

P.S. The Superman story is a great idea—it's nice to see, Curt Swan back drawing the Man of Steel!

As I'm sure you've noticed by now, Charles, keeping Blackhawk out of the sky is actually the more difficult task, though you'll have to admit, he's no slouch with his feet on the ground, either.

Dear Action Comics,

First, for your statistics: I am a 38-year-old college professor. I read DC

comics when I was a kid and have recently gotten into collecting the old stuff and reading the new stuff.

In general, ACW's format is nice. I especially like the diversity of topics, themes and art. The stories involve all sorts of ethics; the art is an interesting mix of styles of line and color. Keep up the diversity and the attention to artistic detail, and you'll have a winner as well as a money-maker.

On a basic level, I like the format of multiple stories. I assume that over time we'll see different characters. Please be wary of overdosing people with plot stalls and cliff-hangers. Read two pages—boom—cliff-hanger. Read two more pages—boom—train's gonna hit some guy—another cliff-hanger ... and so forth. Overdose on nonclosure. I hope you're not stuck to the format of two pages per Superman story and seven to eight pages for each of the other stories. Why not have each issue include at least one complete story, say, 10 or 12 pages?

Thanks for doing what you do.

Robert R. Hoffman
1359 Harrison St.
Elmont, NY 11003

P.S. Is the cover of #602 a "first"—the first non-Superman cover?

Actually, Robert, Superman became the regular cover feature with ACTION's nineteenth issue, having appeared on only seven of the book's previous covers. Some 25 years later (on issue #299), Supes yielded the cover to his cousin, Supergirl. So, while not exactly unheard of, non-Superman covers have been rare ... until now, that is.

Dear Mike and Brian,

It'll take too long to comment on each series in every letter, so I'll just say a few things that came to mind.

Most important, all the series, except Superman, suffer from pacing problems. I know you wanted an explosive first issue, but there was no need to kill off Katma quite so quickly—there should have been more buildup. There's no need to end each eight-page story with a cliff-hanger, or to pack as much into those eight pages as you normally would into a full-length story. In Secret Six so far we've had a quick look at the original group, a hurried introduction to a potential new group, a plane crash seemingly killing off the original six, a demonstration that Mockingbird can control the devices he's fashioned and the predicament of a blind Vic Sommers wandering into traf-

fic—it's all too much to take in. For the most part, only Blackhawk has avoided this problem, reading more like it should, a 32-page story told in chapters.

Blackhawk, moreover, is set on a more adult level than the other strips. I hope this doesn't cause any problems. Jan's comments about looking up Cynthia's dress, their mutual sexual magnetism and his sticking his nose down her cleavage, were all perfectly in character but not quite in line with a Superman Sunday comic strip. Rick Burchett's art, by the way, is excellent.

I also loved George Pérez's cover—he must be the industry's leading cover artist now. The great Gil Kane, however, is hardly producing his best work on the interior Green Lantern strip. Some panels, such as the splash page, have a lot of care put into them and it shows in the emotion that comes through, but others are just crude sketches.

Finally, I'm glad to see Max Collins introducing a topical note into the Wild Dog stories in the shape of right-wing ultra-conservatism. It's his trademark, and a good one!

Take care!

Malcolm Bourne
87 Greenfield Gardens
Cricklewood, London
ENGLAND

Dear Sirs,

Congratulations on your first continuing weekly title! I'm enthralled, to say the least. Blackhawk by Grell and Deadman by Baron would be worth the \$1.50 a week alone, but add in the return of Marty Pasko (on Secret Six, no less) and a "nesto, keano, don't it make you remember" Superman center-spread rendered by Curt Swan—I love it!

The only feature that I'm not truly pleased with after the first two issues is Green Lantern. After the surprising and, in my opinion, unnecessary demise of the Green Lantern Corps, it's nice to see that Hal and some of the crew are still active. But gosh, fellas, what did Katma do to deserve the slice 'n dice treatment she received at the hands of Star Sapphire? Katma wasn't one of my personal favorites from the old corps, but her sudden, and again, unnecessary death was far from something I would wish for her.

I was also bothered by John's confrontation with Hal. One would think that in a time of such anguish, John would turn to Hal for support, not blame

him for what happened. Sapphire may have reason to hate Hal personally, but she's also been a foe of the entire corps, something John must certainly realize. Hopefully, John's behavior will be explained. The Green Lantern segment did have its bright spots, though; Gil Kane's art is always welcomed, and seeing the old GL logo on the splash page was kind of nice, too. Why wasn't it used on the cover as well?

The other series have been quite entertaining thus far, especially *Deadman*, *Blackhawk* and *The Secret Six*. Any more Sixties or Seventies revivals planned? I wouldn't mind seeing up-to-date interpretations of *Plastic Man* or *The New Gods*, myself.

A few more questions.

- Just how permanent is the current six-series plan? Should we expect to see all six features (plus the forthcoming *Black Canary* and *Nighthawk*) still in ACW a few years from now?
- If ACW is as successful as it should be, can we plan to see more weekly series, anthology series or both?
- Is Roger Stern being considered as John Byrne's replacement on the regular *SUPERMAN* title? He would seem to be the logical choice.

Thanks for listening. I'll see you in #603 (in just seven days...man!).

Robert Lane
Samford University
Box 473
Birmingham, AL 35229

To answer your queries in reverse order: Yes, Roger is taking on the writing chores on the *Superman* monthly, with art by Kerry Gammill. Another weekly comic? I don't know, and I don't want to be the one who brings it up to Mike Gold.

And finally, as to the question of the permanence of our current features—only the readers can actually answer that ... by voting! The results will tell us which features live and which will pass on to comic book limbo. And speak of voting, here follows the.

ACW #602 POLL RESULTS

As per your votes, here are the rankings of the features in ACW. The previous week's standings are shown in parentheses. Drum roll, please.

1. *Blackhawk* (#2)
2. *Green Lantern* (#1)
3. *Deadman* (#5)
4. *Secret Six* (#6)
5. *Wild Dog* (#3)
6. *Superman* (#4)

Keep those cards and letters coming.

And now back to your letters

Dear Actioneers,

I was relieved to see Hal Jordan conjecture in #602 that John Stewart's reaction to Katma Tui's must be due to some abnormal and temporary cause, not indicative of some new facet of his personality. Truth to tell, even if this is indeed true, John's reaction has been a surprise and a very puzzling one at that. Granted, the death of his beloved Katma must have been a huge shock, but still John has performed quite uncharacteristically. He is a courageous and experienced adventurer and hero, he has faced great tragedy before and conducted himself very well. Perhaps this is the biggest shock of his life, but his baseless and confused accusations are still unexpected. We can only hope that this is indeed a temporary circumstance, not the beginning of some new "twist" for this admirable character.

If I can hold out some reasonable hope that John Stewart will soon return to "normal," it appears that nothing of the sort would be justified in *Blackhawk's* case. His rude and rather disgusting demeanor in this issue leaves little doubt as to what sort of person he "really" is now. As things stand now, I don't think I'll be too sad to see this feature "rotated out." The chief diversion of this installment was seeing how many ways Rick Burchett and Pablo Marcos could depict *Blackhawk* fighting in the nude without showing his, um, "thingy" (well, if you can't show it, I guess I can't use "the" word to describe it, eh?)

On the subject of good laughs, I enjoyed the name of the Legion of Morality's main guy, B. Lyle Layman. A great name! Or, should I say, a devil of a name? In any event, I look forward to seeing *Wild Dog* use his keen intellect and Socratic dialogue to demonstrate to the Legion the error of their ways. Or isn't that the way these things generally work? Well, at least we may get to see a rip-roarin' book-burnin' or two before things wrap up!

It's good to see the return of Martin Pasko, as he delivers a compelling and well-balanced script for the *Secret Six*. And it's always a pleasure to see the work of veteran artist Dan Siegle.

As for *Deadman*, well, he's still dead(!) but lively, too! But this is no surprise from the oh-so-normal(!) Mike Baron at the helm.

T. M. Maple
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, Ontario
CANADA

Well, I, I'm sure you've seen by now just how right you were about that first *Wild Dog* storyline. I'm sure you'll agree that he Socratically dialogued those Legionnaire butts right off—not to mention how he Platonically blowed 'em up real good!

I think, that in the case of John Stewart, and to a lesser degree *Blackhawk*, you're not taking into account the fact that people are often shaped by their circumstances. In both cases, both men have gone on to prove themselves real heroes.

Speaking of Blackhawk, as we were, and Marty Pasko, as you were, you will be happy to hear that Marty will be directing the fate of Blackhawk and his ... "thingy," starting in ACW #615. We certainly share your enthusiasm in welcoming Marty's return and look forward to a bunch of great stuff from him in the very near future.



NEXT WEEK. *Green Lantern*, *Superman*, *Black Canary*, *Nightwing*, *The Phantom Stranger*, *Catwoman* and more excitement than you can shake a stick at ... all waiting behind a GL cover by Mike Mignola and Ty Templeton. Be there or be square!

See you in just 168 hours.

—Brian Augustyn

☆☆☆☆ VOTE ☆☆☆☆

Just as soon as you've finished this issue of *ACTION COMICS WEEKLY*, write us a letter or a postcard and rank this issue's stories in order of preference: the one you like the most first, the one you liked next second and so on. Each week, we'll tally the vote and print the results right here in our letter column. Your opinion counts, so vote!

Send your ballots to:
Action Comics Weekly
Department 613
DC Comics Inc.
655 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103



MORNING IN SEATTLE.

MRS. SULLIVAN, THE WOMAN IN THE NEXT BED, WOKE UP, SAW OR HEARD WHAT WAS GOING ON AND HIT HER CALL BUTTON.

ACTUALLY, IN WEATHER LIKE THIS IT'S HARD TO TELL...

...IF IT'S MORNING --OR SEATTLE, FOR THAT MATTER.

DID SHE GET A LOOK AT THE ASSAILANT?

A GOOD MORNING TO BE INDOORS.

NO--AND THE ATTACKER MUST'VE REALIZED HE'D AWAKENED HER, BECAUSE HE WAS GONE WHEN THE NURSE ARRIVED.

POOR PAPA. HE'S--

402

--GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.

WHAT TIME LAST NIGHT DID THIS OCCUR?

ABOUT 1:30.

THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO TRIED TO GET IN PAPA'S ROOM AFTER VISITING HOURS --ONE OF THE NURSES STOPPED HIM... AND IT WAS ABOUT 9:15.

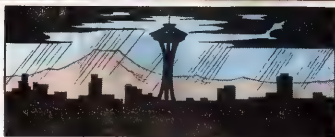
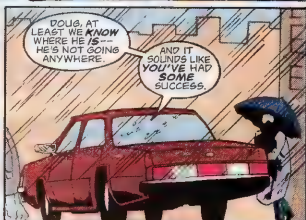
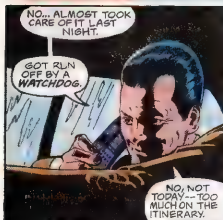
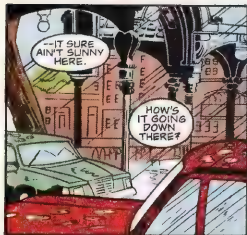
HE MIGHT'VE COME BACK-- WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?

TALL, MEDIUM BUILD --DARK HAIR, BEARD, HE WAS WEARING A SUIT.

WELL, IT'S SOMETHING.

LET'S GO TALK TO MRS. SULLIVAN.





SHARON
WRIGHT

RANDY
DUBURKE
PENCILLER

PABLO
MARCOS
INKER

STEVE
HAYNIE
LETTERER

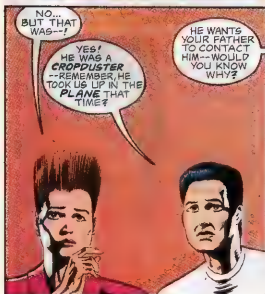
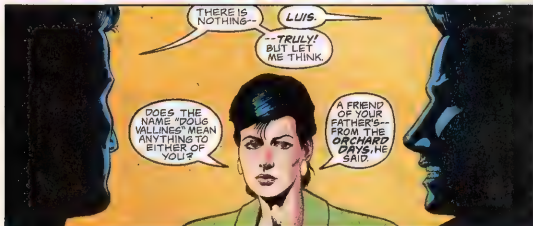
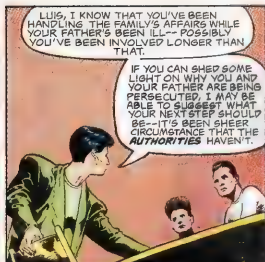
GENE
D'ANGELO
COLORIST

MIKE
GOLD
EDITOR

BLACK CANARY™

BITTER FRUIT

PART 5



WE ARE IN THE COUNTRY **ILLEGALLY**, MS. LANCE--OR WERE, UNTIL THE IMMIGRATION & REFORM AND CONTROL ACT GAVE US A CHANCE AT **AMNESTY**.

MY PARENTS HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO DOCUMENT OUR WHEREABOUTS IN THIS COUNTRY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN STATUS THAT WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO RECOGNIZED CITIZENSHIP.

UNFORTUNATELY, WHEN YOU ARE A FAMILY OF MIGRANT WORKERS CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE, RECEIPTS AND OTHER RECORDS DON'T ALWAYS MOVE WITH YOU.



AND, TOO--THE GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS CHANGING THE RULES, SO FINALLY, WHATEVER THEY'D ASK FOR, WE'D GET--EVEN IF WE HAD TO PULL IT OUT OF THIN AIR!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



OH, IT IS VERY COMMON...AND A LITTLE EXPENSIVE. YOU EITHER FIND A CROOKED GROWER OR LANDLORD TO VERIFY A TIME PERIOD THAT MAY BE WEAK ON DOCUMENTATION...

...OR YOU FIND SOMEONE WHO IS ADEPT AT FORGING THE NECESSARY RECEIPTS YOU MIGHT NEED TO FILL IN THOSE GAPS.

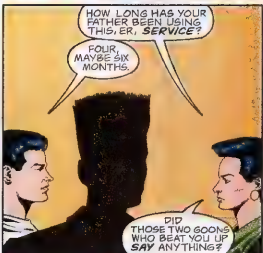
AFTER MONTHS AND MONTHS OF MERRY-GO-ROUNDING WITH THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE, MY FATHER FOUND A **FORGER** WHO COULD SATISFY ANY NEW **REQUESTS**.

AND WE **STILL** DON'T HAVE ANY OFFICIAL VERIFICATION.



HOW LONG HAS YOUR FATHER BEEN USING THIS, ER, **SERVICE**?

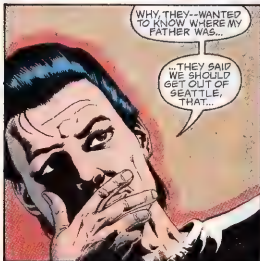
FOUR, MAYBE SIX MONTHS.



DID THOSE TWO GOONS WHO BEAT YOU UP SAY ANYTHING?

WHY, THEY--WANTED TO KNOW WHERE MY FATHER WAS...

...THEY SAID WE SHOULD GET OUT OF SEATTLE, THAT...

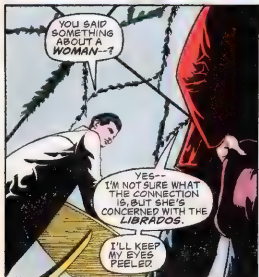
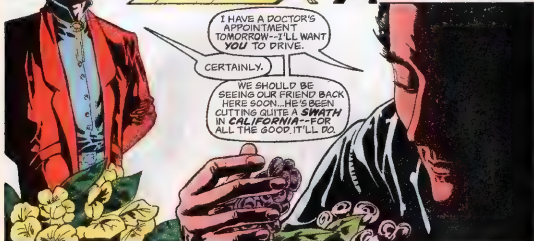


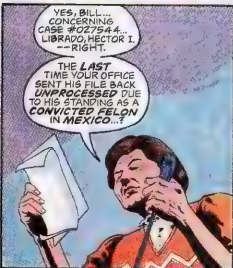
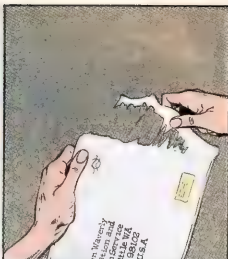
...WE WOULD NEVER BECOME **CITIZENS**.

BINGO--MAYBE YOUR FATHER **DOES** OWE SOMEONE.

TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND YOUR **FORGER**.







Y'KNOW, I'VE SENT THIS GUY'S PAPERWORK TO LINCOLN THREE TIMES AND I'M SICK OF SEEING IT COME BACK.

HOW DO THE HEADS EXPECT US TO REACH THIS PROJECTED GOAL OF 137,000 APPLICATIONS PROCESSED BY **NOVEMBER** IF THEY'RE GOING TO **NITPICK** LIKE THIS?

I KNOW, ELLEN-- SOMETIMES THEY SEEM TO FORGET THE **MECHANICS** INVOLVED.

WELL, THIS ISN'T THE **ONLY** CASE THAT'S BEEN **BALKED**--I'VE DOCUMENTED **SEVERAL**.

I ALSO TALKED TO AN I.N.S. OFFICER IN SACRAMENTO WHO'S EXPERIENCED **TWICE** AS MANY **DELAYS** FOR NO GOOD REASON.

I'M COMPILING A REPORT FOR YOUR **HEAD ADMINISTRATORS**.

DO YOU THINK THAT'S **WISE**, ELLEN--?

I MEAN, THIS IS **THEIR** BABY, AND FOR YOU CAREER-WISE TO--

I KNOW, BILL-- BUT THIS HAS GOT TO GET SOME ATTENTION.

IT'S RIDICULOUS-- SOME CASES GET PROCESSED LIKE THEY WERE GREASED AND OTHERS... THERE'S NO RHYME OR REASON...

WELL, SIT ON IT FOR A DAY OR SO MORE BEFORE VENTING YOUR SPLEEN IN TRIPLICATE, OKAY?

LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO SINCE I'M HERE.

HELL.

YES... **COMPANY CODE 0085**.

REQUEST CODE AND NAME FOR AN OPERATING **CHIMNEY SWEEP**--IN SEATTLE.

YES--I'LL WAIT.



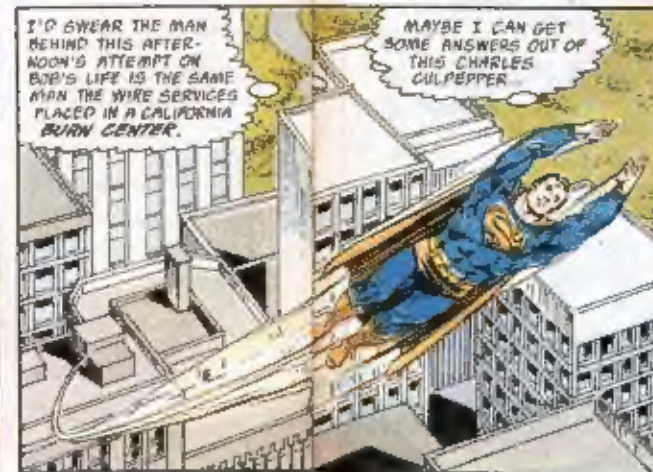
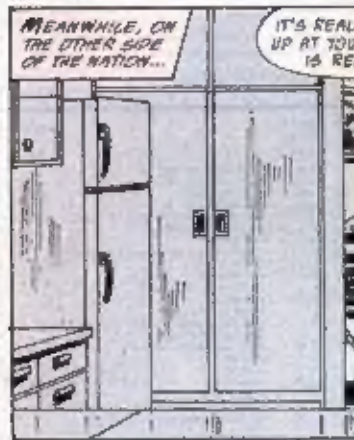
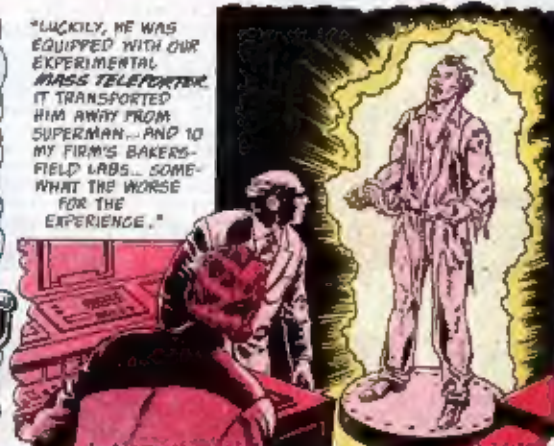
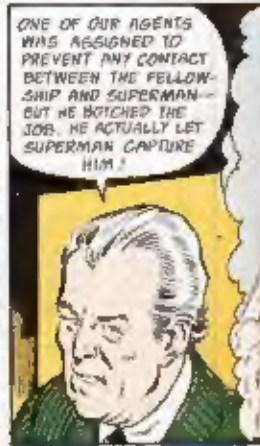
SUPERMAN

Created by
JOE SHUSTER &
JOE SHUSTER

"WICKED

BUSINESS!"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
PETRA SCOTSE - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

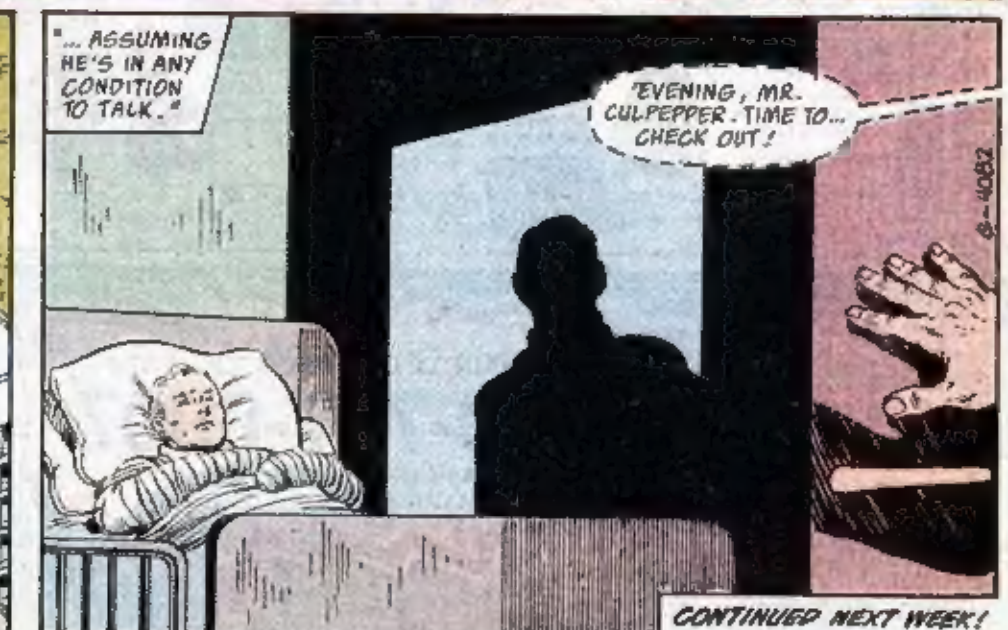
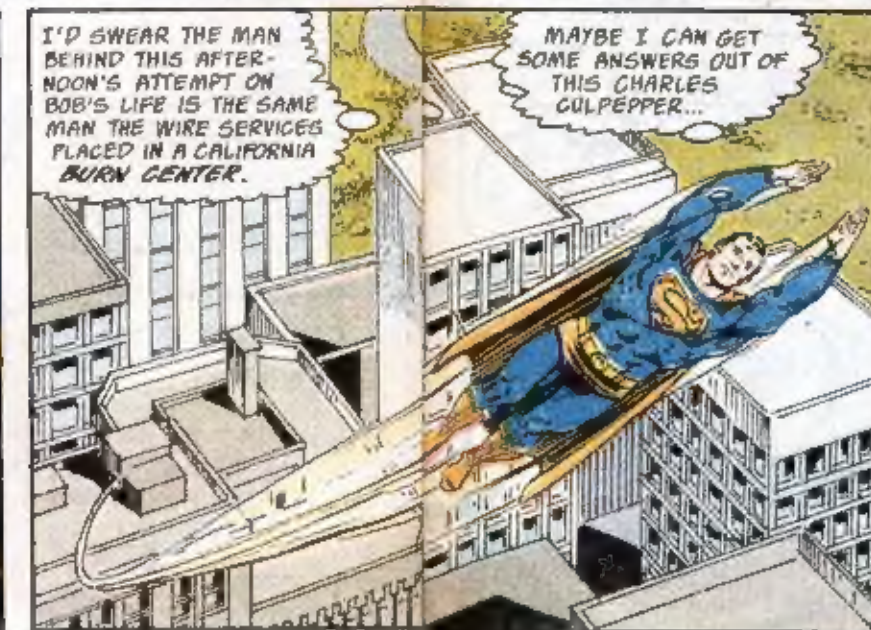
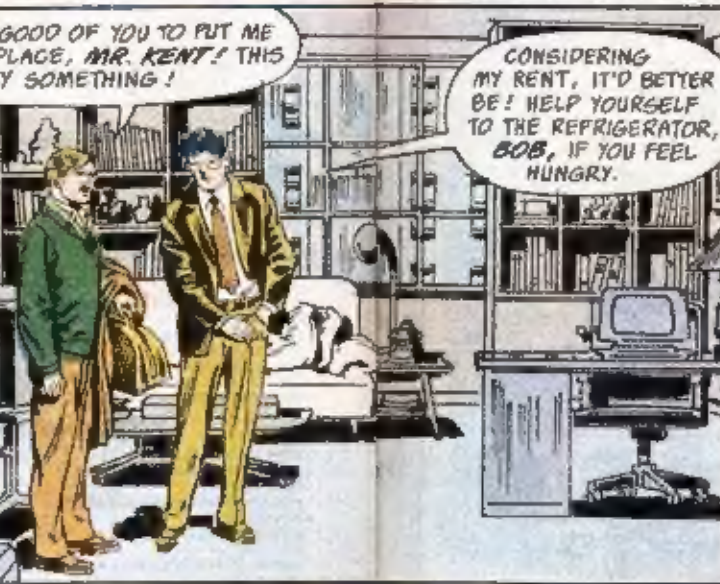
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CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!